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Briquettes

about 8,100,000 tons

The planned import of pit coal lacked 129,000 tons at the end of 1954, which had not been contractually assured. The stock reserves at the end of the year for the economy (state) follows:

Crude lignite

Briquettes

5 On the basis of

Presidium of the Council of Ministers

a. The Minister for Heavy Industry was to be responsible for:

1. Insuring that consultation regarding production would be held in the months of November and December, in order to attain the maximum increase in coal and briquette production.
2. Insuring that the Main Administration for lignite held a scheduled meeting of the Activist Committee (Aktivistenkommission) on 12 November to attain the goal mentioned in 5 a (1) above. At the same time, manpower of this Main Administration was to be concentrated in those open-pit mining areas which deliver to consumers outside of the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Heavy Industry.
3. Shortening the time consumed in repairing machinery and rolling stock through the introduction of quick repair methods (Schnellreparaturmethoden) in all lignite plants and of quick repair brigades (Schnellreparaturbrigaden) for the repair of open-pit mining equipment.
4. Insuring that deliveries of crude lignite, Steinkohle, and briquettes to approved customers correspond to the fuel balance established by this Council of Ministers resolution.
5. Initiating contracts for the first quarter of 1955 between the delivering plants and the branch office of DEZ Kohle. In this respect, the expected requirements (Forderungen) of the branch offices of DEZ Kohle were to be established by 20 December 1954.

b. The Minister for Railway Affairs was to be responsible:

1. The uninterrupted supplying on a priority basis of required freight space for solid fuels, especially in view of the intended increase in rail shipments.
2. Installing of Reichsbahn expeditors (Dispatcher) in the central coal shipping points, in order to insure expeditious handling of coal shipments.
3. Instructing the coalfields of "Glueckauf," "Freiheit," and "Gross-Kayna" that they were to be allowed to ship coal destined for enterprises of the Ministry for Heavy Industry without weighing it. The Ministry for Heavy Industry was to instruct its consumer enterprises to accept such shipments of unweighed coal.
4. Insuring that the usual tax on supplementary orders for freight cars was to be waived during this period of increased activity in the coal fields.

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5. Investigating the present premium system for the saving of solid fuels with the object in mind of arousing a maximum increase of interest on the part of locomotive engineers and firemen in this saving of fuel.
- c. The Minister for Foreign and Domestic Trade was to be responsible for:
 1. Insuring that the import of pit coal in November and December, in amounts corresponding to the State plan, is carried out. It was pointed out that under-realization of these imports would have an effect on the export of briquettes.
 2. Concluding contracts for the first quarter of 1955 for the import of pit coal, pit-coal coke, and crude lignite. In the first quarter of 1955, a minimum of 1,800,000 tons of pit coal was to be imported; of this amount 650,000 tons were to be imported in January 1955. The results of these efforts were to be reported to the Office of the Minister-President by 12 December 1954.
- d. The Chairman of the State Committee for Material Procurement was ordered to:
 1. Send, by 20 November 1954, a preliminary report to the Office of the Minister-President on the results of checks made on reserve stocks of solid fuels, which were to be carried out in the various enterprises.
 2. Prepare ways and means for continuing the carrying-out of the above-mentioned checks in the first quarter of 1955.
 3. Handle all shipment notices (Bevorratung) for the following:
 - (a) Crude lignite. Consumers up to 100 km. distant from the delivering plant were to be notified eight days in advance. Consumers more than 100 km. distant were to be notified 15 days in advance. In mountainous areas and the like, where in the winter months extraordinary difficulties arise in shipping, prior notice was to be given 8 weeks ahead of time.
 - (b) Briquettes. Consumers up to 100 km. distant from the delivering plant were to be notified six days in advance. Consumers more than 100 km. distant were to be notified 10 days in advance. In mountainous areas and the like, where in the winter months extraordinary difficulties arise in shipping, prior notice was to be given four weeks ahead of time.
 4. Send an intermediate report to the Office of the Minister-President, by 30 November 1954, on the results of the checks made in the enterprises regarding work on fuel consumption norms.
- e. The Minister for Trade and Supply was ordered to insure the allotment of coal to the population, in accordance with their ration requirements, for the remainder of 1954 and for the first quarter of 1955, and to inform the people on this subject.
- f. The Chairman of the State Contracts Court (Staatliches Vertragsgericht) was made responsible for the checking on contracts concluded for the first quarter of 1955 between the lignite mines and the briquette factories on the one hand and D&Z Kohle or the direct consumers, on the other hand. A report was to be sent to the Office of the Minister-President, by 1 December 1954, on the status of the conclusion of contracts for the first quarter of 1955.

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- g. All of the Ministers, State Secretaries with Independent Jurisdiction (m.e.G.) and Chairmen of the various Bezirke Councils were made responsible for creating standards for fuel consumption norms (Brennstoffverbrauchsnormen) and for establishing "Persoenliche Konten", and for dispatching these standards to all consumers by 31 January 1955 at the latest. The basis for work on fuel consumption norms was the directive on this subject, issued on 24 August 1954 by the State Committee for Material Procurement. The firemen's competition in the use of crude lignite in place of lignite briquettes and in the saving of solid fuels was to be gotten under way.
- h. The Minister for labor and the specially-authorized government officials dealing with the coal industry were ordered to recommend to the Minister-President by 1 December 1954 a number of firemen (Heizer) and heating engineers to be designated as "models" in the competition in the saving of solid fuels. It was suggested that the competition mentioned in paragraph 5 g of this report which is to run until 31 December 1954, be continued in the first quarter of 1955.

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